

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
September 5, 2019, 8:00AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Leon Davidoff (Chair), Shari Cantor, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Vernon Riddick (Police Chief), Dan Coppinger (Assistant Police Chief), Greg Priest (Fire Chief), Mike Sinsigalli (Assistant Fire Chief), Hugh Callahan (Assistant Fire Chief), Mark McGovern (Community Development Director)

Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

Chairman Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

2. Communications

a. July 18, 2019 Minutes

The Committee received the minutes from the July 18, 2019 meeting.

3. Staff Reports

a. Police

Chief Riddick provided this update to the committee. The department is pleased with its working relations. The Town's overall crime rate is down and the number of car burglaries have decreased significantly. This is due to the increased police presence during the evenings and the social media "lock your door" reminders. He will circulate a memorandum for the committee to review.

He briefly highlighted recent events and personnel matters, including the recruitment for the Assistant Police Chief.

b. Fire

Chief Priest provided this update to the committee. He highlighted recent statistics, notable events, incidents, and ongoing projects. He discussed personnel matters, including recent new hires, promotions and assignments.

4. Business Items

a. An Ordinance Amending Parking Restrictions

Mark McGovern presented this business item to the committee. He provided background on the existing ordinance and proposed amendments. At the request of the Town Council, staff engaged the community on street parking in neighborhood south of Farmington Avenue and west of LaSalle Road. Staff worked with residents to develop measures aimed at reducing late night parking at the Center. The proposed ordinance would authorize the Town Manager to establish no parking zones and formalize the police department's omit process. The Community Planning and Physical Services committee has endorsed the proposed ordinance.

The Town has received positive feedback on recent parking kiosk changes, which benefit business owners. Staff will continue to work on potentially removing the current overnight parking ban and will keep the committee updated.

The committee was also briefed on the police department's omit process, which is extensively used. There are two ways to register for a permit-online or by phone. Omit numbers will be provided at the next PS committee meeting.

The committee agreed to place the proposed ordinance on the September 24th Town Council agenda to be set for public hearing.

b. Presentation on Police Officer Recruitment Process

Chief Riddick provided a high-level overview of the police department's recruitment process. The Town follows certain protocols and procedures including CHIP (complete health and injury prevention) requirements, intelligence tests and oral boards. The timeline from application to hiring is approximately three months. Recruitment methods include website postings, career fairs and word of mouth by current officers. The department is focused on recruiting certified officers.

5. Future Agenda Items

None.

6. Adjournment

Chairman Davidoff adjourned the meeting at 9:17am.